Rural Sanitary District of Whitchurch Hants

Area 30609 acres, Population 5658 (1891)

Annual Report for the year ending December 31 – 1897

Registered Births	Whitchurch District –	} 83	
	" Workhouse	} 3	
	Overton District		59
	St Mary Bourne District		29
		Total	174

Deaths	Whitchurch District	40
	Workhouse	11
	Isolation Hospital	1
	St Mary Bourne District	18
	Overton District	25
	Total	95

Comparing this with the previous year we have

		1896	1897		
Births	Whitchurch –	76	83	Increase	7
	Workhouse –	1	3	"	2
	Overton	66	59	decrease	7
	St Mary Bourne	26	29	Increase	3
		169	174	Increase	5

		1896	1897		
Deaths	Whitchurch	30	40	Increase	17
	Workhouse	5	11	–	
	Isolation Hospital	–	1	–	
	Overton	21	25	–	4
	St Mary Bourne	15	18		3
		67	95	Increase	24

The Notification of Infectious Diseases Acts adopted Feby 1890 shews the following results

New Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Whitchurch District	Scarlatina	5
	Diphtheria	5
	Membranous Croup	1
	Typhoid Fever	1
	Erysipelas	6
	Total	18
Northmoor	— — —	0
Overton	Scarlatina	3
	Diphtheria	1
	Typhoid Fever	1
	Puerperal Fever	1
	Erysipelas	4
	Total	10
St Mary Bourne District	Scarlatina — —	11
	Total in Sanitary Area	39

1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
56	19	12	75	20	30	55	39

= 306 in 8 years out of a Population of 5658 or 54 pr 1000 population

Deaths from Notifiable Diseases (1897)

Scarlatina 1 Membranous Croup 1
Typhoid Fever 1 Erysipelas 2 } Total 5

1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
9	1	1	7	2	4	2	5

= 31 in 8 years = 5·4 pr 1000 population

The following table shows the Class of Notifiable diseases during the Year and the deaths therefrom

	Small Pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	M. Croup	Typhoid & Puer. Fev.	Erysipelas	
1890		9	25	4			18 = 56
91		2	3		1		13 = 19
92		4					8 = 12
93	5c	25c	35c	1	1		8 = 75c
94		5c	4	1			10 = 20
95		17	3	4	4		2 = 30
96		34	9		2		10 = 55
97		19	6	1	2	1	10 = 39
	5c	115c	83c	11	10	1	79 = 306

Deaths 1890 — 5c | 2 | = 7

91							
92							
93	1		3	1			1 = 6
94				1			= 1
95			1	2	1		= 4
96		1	1	1	1		= 2
97		1		1	1		2 = 5c
	1	2	10	7	2	0	3 = 25c

It is of interest to analyse these diseases and apportion them to the several districts

Small Pox 1893 — Whitchurch 5c | Workhouse | Overton | St-M. Bourne | Total 5c

Scarlatina	Whitchurch	Worthhouse	Overton	St M Bourn	
1890	4	0	2	3	= 9
91	-	1	0	1	= 2
92	4	-	-	-	= 4
93	17	-	5	3	= 25
94	1		1	3	= 5
95	5		-	12	= 17
96	10		22	2	= 34
97	5		3	11	= 19
	46	1	33	35	= 115

Diphtheria					
1890	21	-	4	-	= 25
91	2	-	1	-	= 3
92	-	-	-	-	- 0
93	34	-	1	-	= 35
94	2	-	2	-	4
95	3	-			3
96	8	-	1	-	= 9
97	5	-	1	-	= 6
	75	0	10	0	= 85

In Croup					
1890	2	0	1	1	= 4
91	-	-	-	-	= 0
92	-	-	-	-	= 0
93	-	-	1	-	= 1
94	-	-	-	1	= 1
95	4	-	-	-	= 4
96	-	-	-	-	= 0
97	1	-	-	-	= 1
	7	0	2	2	= 11

Erysipelas	Whitchurch	Overton	St M Bourne	Workhouse		
1890	7	7	2	2	=	18
91	8	4	1	-	=	13
92	1	4	3	—	=	8
93	1	4	3	—	=	8
94	4	2	4	—	=	10
95	2	—	—	—	=	2
96	8	1	1	—	=	10
97	6	4	—	-	=	10
	37	26	14	2	=	79

Typhoid Fever						
1890	—	—	—	—	=	0
91	—	—	1	—	=	1
92	—	—	—	—	=	0
93	1	-	—	—	=	1
94	—	—	—	—	=	0
95	1	—	3	-	=	4
96	—	2	-	—	=	2
97	1	1	—	—	=	2
	3	3	4	0	=	10

Puerperal Fever						
1897	—	1			=	1

In several instances these diseases did not originate in the locality but were imported either directly or indirectly

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The year 1894 is worthy of note as the one in which the long talked of Isolation Hospital was opened for the reception of Infectious illness — In January a case of Diphtheria occurred in Whitchurch as a sequel to the other cases in December 1896

On Feby 10th and when the Hospital was absolutely bare a case of Scarlet Fever was notified as occurring at a boy's School in Whitchurch - a great effort was made and the case removed to the Hospital the same day - No other case occurred in connection with this but its origin was obscure

On Feby 26th & 27th Two Cases of Diphtheria occurred in different parts of Whitchurch & having no connection with each other these were at once removed to the Hospital as Isolation was impossible at home —

On March 3rd a case of Scarlet Fever occurred at Freefolk & on the 8th another case in a different part of the Village these were removed at once — for purposes of Isolation — all the above were Children

On the 10th an adult case was admitted from Overton — On the 16th an adult case occurred at Freefolk which could not be removed & on the 22nd two Children visitors were removed from Overton their Mother accompanying them & remaining in the Hospital Whelp Nurse them —

On the 25th another case occurred —

at an outlying farm in the Whitchurch District but this was not removed on account of objection by the Father We were unable to trace the origen of any of these cases or their connection with each other — but we have heard no more of Scarlet Fever in Whitchurch or Overton during the year and I believe the prompt removal to the Hospital of the serious Cases was the means of preventing what would otherwise have been a very serious outbreak from so many different centres — Two other cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Whitchurch District during the year both of which were removed to the Hospital — There was also one mild case at an outlying place in the Overton District which it was not necessary to remove

On the 14th Scarlet Fever appeared at St Mary Bourne a Lad of 13 yrs of age who was admitted to the Hospital on the 19th the origen of the case not not traceable On the 8th of June 2 cases occurred in another family in the same rank of houses — both admitted to the Hospital on the 8th One of these a Child of 2½ years died on the 14th — the type of Fever being very bad On the 10th another Child of the same family was removed — in this instance the Mother accompanied the first 2 Children

and remained tille the Cellitte one died —
On the 27 of June another case occurred
in a fresh part of the village &
the Mother accompanied the Child of 5 years
to the Hospital & remained tille Aug. 24 —
On July 10th a second Child from this
family was admitted — On July 22nd
a case occurred in the fourth first named
and another on the 25th in a different part
and on Aug 20th 2 more of one
family in another house — These were
all admitted to the Hospital as soon
as the cases became known — Dr Boyd
Kindly Communicating with me
Either personally or by telegram at once
so that the cases were isolated the
same day and thus this more Extended
outbreak was kept in check and
ultimately stamped out —
Notwithstanding the varied & Conflicting
opinions that have from time to
time been Expressed as to the
desirability & utility of this Hospital
the result of its first Years working
shows that it has been of incalculable
benefit to the whole area as regards
the protection of the Public Health
and has been more fully
appreciated and freely used
than could have been at first
anticipated — If it has been
an Expense in some ways it
has saved much in others

Two Cases of Typhoid Fever are recorded during the Year one at Whitchurch arising locally and the other at Overton imported from Maidstone & ending fatally —
Erysipelas is notified in 10 Cases 6 from Whitchurch & 4 from Overton of these latter 2 are recorded as fatal one an Infant and the other an Adult who died from hemorrhage from the stomach — this not being the first attack —
Measles occurred in 2 cases in Whitchurch in January & in May & June there was a considerable outbreak necessitating the closing of the Schools for 3 weeks from June 28th —
Whooping Cough was somewhat prevalent in the Spring and
Influenza — was present from time to time but Chiefly in May & the early part of June —
While alluding to the Hospital I should have remarked that of the 19 cases of Scarlet Fever occurring during the year 16 were removed to the Hospital viz

Whitchurch Dist.	5 cases	3 removals
Overton Dist.	3 "	3 "
St Mary Bourne "	11 "	10 "

and of the Diphtheria cases the 4 occurring in the Whitchurch District. after February 1st were all removed —

During the year much work has been done in conjunction with the Inspector special attention being given to Cowsheds & Yards, old dirty & dilapidated houses houses badly ventilated, water supply from wells &c pigsties, overcrowding & families reported to be living in a filthy & neglected ~~State~~ Condition
The Question of Granting Certificates for the water supply of New houses & others for which the certificate is required has been a cause of much unnecessary trouble both to the Inspector & myself — It should be fully understood that no Certificate will be Granted until the supply is sufficient & of Good Quality and the surroundings in such a state as to prevent pollution from drainage or surface water, also that the appliances are in a Satisfactory Condition and the supply within reasonable distance so that women & Children shall not have to struggle so far with pails of water in all weather.
If Owners of property would cause more attention to be paid to old houses & dilapidated wells &c it would save much delay in getting defects remedied.
There is no doubt these points must still be kept in view by the District Council as the Sanitary Authority

The Inspector has kindly furnished me with the following Summary of works done under his supervision during the Year —

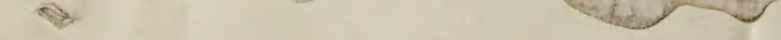
Houses Whitewashed & repaired	45
" Disinfected —	24
" Closed unfit for habitation —	3
Wells cleaned out 5 - Kerbs repaired -	9
Certificates Granted — —	4
Closets repaired 6 New 9 Cleaned	6
Pigsties removed 5 Cleaned —	8
Drains repaired 7 — New	5
New frames to Catchpits — —	5
Bedding disinfected — —	14
Pumps repaired — —	4
Slaughter houses inspected	3
Bake houses "	8
Overcrowding abated — —	2
River Cleansed — — —	2
Cowsheds - Whitewashed ventilated & improved -	2

A number of dead wells cleaned out improved & Covered —

14 Houses which were badly ventilated improved by new windows made to open being put into both living & sleeping rooms

1 Cottage unfit for habitation has been pulled down by order of the owner

Water supply to several houses improved by new Kerbs being put & raised so preventing surface water entering the wells

I am Gentlemen
Your obedient Servant
Henry Hemsted
Asst. Off. of Health

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To the Rural Dist. Council
of Whitchurch St, Hants
Jany 27th, 1898.